

Message Text

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S/S-FVORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 024530

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SP

SUBJECT: OSORIO CALL ON UNDERSECRETARY SISCO

1. MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY ALFONSO OSORIO CALLED JANUARY 30 ON UNDERSECRETARY SISCO. DISCUSSION COVERED OSORIO'S DESCRIPTION OF GOS REFORM PLANS, HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE ULTRA-RIGHT IN SPAIN, AND THE IMPROVED ATTITUDE HE FOUND AMONG US CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS. HE ALSO TOUCHED ON SPANISH-EUROPEAN RELATIONS.

2. IN RESPONSE TO SISCO'S QUESTION, OSORIO REVIEWED IN GENERAL TERMS THE REFORMS ARIAS AND HIS CABINET HAVE OUTLINED PREVIOUSLY, INCLUDING BROADER GUARANTEES FOR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS, A TWO-CHAMBER PARLIAMENT, DIRECT ELECTIONS AND A REFERENDUM -- THE PROCESS HOPEFULLY TO BE COMPLETED BY MID-1977. OSORIO

THEN MADE INTERESTING COMMENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S GREATEST PROBLEM WAS NOT THE OPPOSITION BUT
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THE ULTRA-RIGHT. HE NOTED THAT THE MASS OF FRANQUISTAS

COULD OVER TIME BE TRANSFORMED INTO A CONSERVATIVE DEMOCRATIC FORCE, BUT WOULD BE VULNERABLE TO EXPLOITATION BY ULTRA-RIGHT FASCISTS. THE GOVERNMENT VIEWS THIS DANGER AS ITS MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM.

3. OSORIO THEN DESCRIBED THE MORE FAVORABLE ATTITUDE HE MET IN CONGRESS (WHERE HE HAD MET, INTER ALIA, SENATORS HATFIELD, SPARKMAN AND CHURCH, PLUS ALBERT AND SYMINGTON.) HE SAID HE INTENDED TO RECOMMEND ON HIS RETURN TO MADRID THAT MORE SPANISH POLITICAL LEADERS VISIT THE U.S.

4. WHEN SISCO ASKED ABOUT ATTITUDES TOWARD SPAIN IN EUROPE, OSORIO REPLIED THAT THE GOS DOES NOT THINK THAT EUROPEAN VIEWS HAVE CHANGED AS MUCH AS THEY SHOULD, THOUGH HE NOTED THAT FRANCE WAS AN EXCEPTION. ACCORDINGLY, AND UNTIL THERE IS MORE IMPROVEMENT IN SPAIN'S EUROPEAN RELATIONS, THE GOS WOULD CONTINUE TO FOLLOW AN INDEPENDENT COURSE, LINKED WITH THE U.S.

5. SISCO ASSURED OSORIO OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE GOS GRADUAL APPROACH TO REFORM AND ENCOURAGED HIM TO HAVE MORE SPANISH LEADERS VISIT WASHINGTON.

6. IN EARLIER MEETING WITH HARTMAN AND LAINGEN, OSORIO MENTIONED QUESTION OF AMNESTY AS DIFFICULT FOR GOVERNMENT, SINCE IT MIGHT LEAD TO SUCH PROBLEMS AS RESTITUTION OF REPUBLICAN MILITARY OFFICERS TO ACTIVE SERVICE. KISSINGER

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